

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant appreciates Examiner Mei's courtesy in granting a telephone interview to discuss the present application. A telephone interview was conducted November 5, 2009. Though no final agreement was reached, the interview was helpful to discuss pending claims in view of references Eguchi and Heuberger.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6, 9-10, 17, and 20-27 are allowed. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates this statement. Claims 1-5, 7-8, 11-16, 18-19, and 28-31 have been cancelled, without prejudice, to place the case in condition for allowance. This amendment is thus believed to be proper after final. Acceptance of the amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Serial No. 10/579,520
Office Action dated: June 8, 2009

If a Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response is required to make the attached response timely, it is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response in the above-identified application for the period required to make the attached response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069.

Respectfully submitted,
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November 9, 2009
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